

See <http://www.mass.gov/legis/laws/mgl/94c-31.htm> for the full text of the Drug Laws.

The part of the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 94C, Section 31, Class B, that controls cocaine is written as follows:

(4) Coca leaves and any salt, compound, derivative, or preparation of coca leaves, and any salt, compound, derivative, or preparation thereof which is chemically equivalent or identical with any of these substances, except that the substances shall not include decocainized coca leaves or extraction of coca leaves, which extractions do not contain cocaine or ecgonine.

Insert "including cocaine and ecgonine and their salts, isomers, derivatives and salts of isomers and derivatives" so that the law will read (with the insertion underlined):

(4) Coca leaves and any salt, compound, derivative, or preparation of coca leaves including cocaine and ecgonine and their salts, isomers, derivatives and salts of isomers and derivatives, and any salt, compound, derivative, or preparation thereof which is chemically equivalent or identical with any of these substances, except that the substances shall not include decocainized coca leaves or extraction of coca leaves, which extractions do not contain cocaine or ecgonine.

Justification:

The existing wording of the cocaine law could be misinterpreted to imply that not all optical and geometric isomers of cocaine and ecgonine would be considered as Class B drugs. This change was made in the Federal Controlled Substances Act in 1984.

The part of the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 94C, Section 31, Class B, that controls 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA) is written as follows:

(8) 3,4-methylenedioxy methamphetamine (MDMA).

Insert "its salts, optical isomers and salts of its optical isomers", so the law will read (with the insertion underlined):

(8) 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA), its salts, optical isomers and salts of its optical isomers.

Justification:

The existing wording of this law could be misinterpreted to imply that not all optical and geometric isomers of MDMA would be considered as Class B drugs.

The part of the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 94C, Section 31, Class A, that controls ketamine is written as follows:

(c) Unless specifically excepted or unless listed in another schedule, any material, compound, mixture or preparation that contains any quantity of the following substances including its salts, isomers and salts of isomers whenever the existence of such salts, isomers and salts of isomers is possible within the specific chemical designations:

- (1) Flunitrazepam
- (2) Gamma Hydroxy Butyric Acid
- (3) Ketamine Hydrochloride.

Delete “Hydrochloride” after the word Ketamine, so the law will read:

(c) Unless specifically excepted or unless listed in another schedule, any material, compound, mixture or preparation that contains any quantity of the following substances including its salts, isomers and salts of isomers whenever the existence of such salts, isomers and salts of isomers is possible within the specific chemical designations:

- (1) Flunitrazepam
- (2) Gamma Hydroxy Butyric Acid
- (3) Ketamine.

Justification:

The existing wording of the ketamine law could be misinterpreted to imply that only salts of ketamine would be considered as Class A drugs. Whereas the base form of ketamine which has the same physiological effect as the ketamine salts would not be considered as a Class A drug.